

SENATE JUDICIARY

Shishino

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SB 205

DATE 2/5/09

Bill No SB285

I was injured in a horrible accident while at work on Nov. 9 2007. The accident resulted in a spinal cord injury. My insurance claim was initially denied. Luckily my family had hired lawyers, Leslae Dalpiaz and Dave Sandler. The claim was turned over without prejudice a week before depositions were set. This was very fortunate. I believe my family would be bankrupt now if they had to carry load of my medical expense. I had well over \$ 100,000 in just hospital stay and surgery. I was released the Rehabilitation Institute of Montana two months after the accident. Once released from the hospital I moved into an apartment. Once settled in my home I went about the task of learning to live with a spinal cord injury, this is something I believe that can be described in the words of a letter. Time went on and the spinal shock wore off. It was then I realized one of the horrible side effects of my injury, sever muscle spasms. They started somewhat mild but as time went on they became more frequent and sever. They had worsened to the point I felt I was no longer able to function. At this time I had a job and was preparing to begin college so I could be retrained. I saw my Doctor and he put me on a much stronger regiment of muscle relaxer. While the spasms are still a problem I am still able to function as long as I can get the drugs I need, Baclofen and valium.

Several months ago I was getting my prescriptions filled and the Pharmist explained the pharmacy billing company refused to process my prescriptions because my attorneys had asserted a lien against my medical benefits. This was a problem. I also have many other medical supplies I need. Because of this problem I pay for my medication out of pocket and then wait to be reimbursed by my adjuster several months later. This is very inconvenient and finically draining. My attorneys have worked very hard on my behalf I believe they should be paid as in all other workers compensation claims.

Greg Howard

